

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-20

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9148

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6154

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR COTTON DIVISION, FAS

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, UR

SUBJ: POLYANSKIY ON CROP CONDITIONS

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY BRUNTHAVER ON MAY 24, U. S. S. R. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE POLYANSKIY CHARACTERIZED CROP OUTLOOK AS "GOOD" AT THIS TIME, BUT NOTED TOO EARLY TO EVALUATE SPRING GRAIN PROSPECTS. ONLY DIFFICULTY HE MENTIONED WAS THAT SUBSTANTIAL AREA COTTON HAD BEEN HAILED OUT AND REPLANTED WITH COTTON AND OTHER CROPS.

2. COMMENT: POLYANSKIY EVALUATION ESSENTIALLY CORRECT EXCEPT HE DID NOT MENTION DEVELOPING SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIENCIES IN SOUTHERN EUROPEAN U. S. S. R. WHICH NOT YET CRITICAL. SOIL MOISTURE RESERVES IN VIRGIN LANDS REGIONS SIBERIA AND KAZAKHSTAN ABOVE AVERAGE; RAIN AND WET SNOW INTERFERED WITH FIELD WORK AND SOWING DURING MAY IN SOME AREAS. HEAVY RAINS RESULTING IN SOME DAMAGE TO COTTON REPORTED IN SOME COTTON REGIONS OF CENTRAL ASIA (SS3 012) BUT WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT SEEN MENTION OF HAIL AND REPLANTING IN SOVIET PRESS.
DUBS

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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